

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 PM - TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Vice Mayor Joe Ramirez, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember Lynn Selby, Councilmember David Shapera

II. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence
Silence Cell Phones & Pagers

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Citizens desiring to speak on a matter that IS NOT on this agenda may do so at this time. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person and shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole. At the conclusion of the Call to the Public, individual City Council Members may (1) respond to criticism made by those who have spoken (2) direct staff to review or respond to the matter, and/or (3) direct that the matter be put on a future agenda.

Operations Director for the Northwest Valley YMCA Ryan Novo explained the purpose of the YMCA and that the YMCA is in the process of building community support to provide opportunities for less fortunate children. Opportunities include swim lessons, water safety, summer camp programs, character development, and friendships.

Mayor Mook asked what dollar amount they hope to achieve and was advised their 2016 goal is \$25,000 for which they have already raised half. He stated there is not a minimum donation and whatever amount people or organizations donate would be accepted. Donations for a particular interest can be specified.

Councilor Delgado stated he worked toward a banner from the Mayor and City Council last year supporting the kids' summer camp.. He promised to leave a check for \$150 to begin the Council challenge this year; other Councilors also pledged to contribute. Mayor Mook stated this Council is one of the most committed supporters.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion. If discussion is desired regarding any Consent Agenda Item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

1. Consideration and action approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, March 1, 2016. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution R16-03-07 for submitting a grant application and accepting funds, if awarded, from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for Impaired Driving Prevention through marketing and branding. (Police Department)
3. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution R16-03-08 for submitting a grant application and accepting funds, if awarded, from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for Police Department Selective Traffic Enforcement associated with RADAR Units. (Police Department)
4. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution R16-03-09 for submitting a grant and accepting funds, if awarded, from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for Police Department Driving-Under-the-Influence (DUI) Enforcement overtime and associated marketing materials. (Police Department)
5. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution R16-03-10 for submitting a grant application and accepting funds, if awarded, from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for the "Click it or Ticket" campaign. (Police Department)
6. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution R16-03-11 for submitting a grant application and accepting funds, if awarded, from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for equipment to facilitate the Fire Department Traffic Safety Education Campaign. (Fire Department)

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve all Consent agenda items as presented; seconded by Councilor Shapera. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

V. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Consideration and action to utilize a City of Chandler contract with Weber Water Resources to upgrade the programmable logic controllers at four of the City's well sites, in an amount not-to-exceed \$230,000 and authorizing a budget transfer of \$200,000 from the Special Projects Fund to the Water Fund. (Public Works)

Acting Public Works Director Nick Russo introduced Assistant Utilities Director Shane Swartwout who presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the request. Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC's) control critical functions at the City's well sites which include automatic pump operations, system monitoring and alarms (SCADA) and automated control of system pressures and water storage levels. Current PLC's are 15 plus years old, considered obsolete and have reached the end of their useful life, and their age leaves critical components vulnerable; some replacement parts are unavailable. Mr. Swartwout presented an overview of current well facilities recommending an upgrade to four of the seven facilities with new Allen Bradley PLC's in 2015/16. He also recommended extra hardware on the remaining three sites until they can be upgraded, which will ensure all City well site facilities are functional. Utilizing the City of Chandler contract #WA5-936-3480 with Weber Water Resources meets all of the City's bid requirements. The total cost of the project is \$230,000 including \$21,675 (10.5%) contingency and will not impact the Council's five-year utility rate commitment.

Mayor Mook asked about the three well sites not being treated at this time and Mr. Swartwout advised that while they have identical PLC's and will need to be upgraded in the future they can be repaired by using parts from the sites being upgraded to extend their life a bit longer.

Councilor Shapera stated these repairs are definitely needed and asked why funds are being paid for out of Public Works instead of the Enterprise Fund. Finance Director Robert Nilles reported the term "public works" encompasses several funds but assured Councilor Shapera that these repairs will be paid from the water system which is the Enterprise Fund. Councilor Shapera also asked how much money was received for the old meters that were replaced and Mr. Nilles reported he would need to research and report back. Dr Isom stated this information will be sent to Council as soon as he gets an answer.

Councilor Delgado asked if it was possible to include the three remaining wells in the upcoming budget instead of waiting. Mr. Nilles reported they can look at that possibility but cautioned against impacting the 5-year rate increase plan. Dr. Isom stated several plans were discussed and consideration was given to honoring the 5-year rate increase promise without compromising on equipment repairs. He assured Council the repairs were not patchwork and that spare parts from the wells being replaced can be utilized to extend the life of three remaining wells.

Vice Mayor Ramirez asked how long the wells will need to be down for installation of the new parts and was advised by Mr. Swartwout that the changeover would take approximately eight hours but stated there is redundancy and not all the wells are running at the same time.

Councilor Shapera asked if the Water Fund still owes the General Fund and Mr. Nilles stated the 2015/16 budget is the last year to pay the General Fund.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve utilization of a City of Chandler contract with Weber Water Resources to upgrade the programmable logic controllers at four of the City's well sites, in an amount not-to-exceed \$230,000 and authorizing a budget transfer of \$200,000 from the Special Projects Fund to the Water Fund; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- B. Consideration and action to authorize the City Manager to transfer budget and funds in an amount not to exceed \$28,500 from Council Contingency into the Sanitation Fund to support the Spring 2016 Bulk Trash Program. (Public Works)

Acting Public Works Director Nick Russo reported the fall 2015 bulk program cost was \$46,000 representing a 10% decrease in labor costs, 12% increase in trash collected and increased program efficiency with continued demand for the program. If approved, the spring 2016 program is scheduled to run April 11th through May 6th and will be modeled after the improved fall 2015 program. Parks & Sons will integrate bulk pickup into regular routes and staff will proactively work with residents on compliance issues. Staff recommends transfer of funds from Council Contingency to the Bulk Trash account to support the spring 2016 program. The current bulk trash fund balance is \$11,500 and the spring 2016 Program will cost \$40,000 requiring a fund transfer of \$28,500.

There was considerable discussion between Councilors regarding use of Council Contingency funds for this purpose and the benefit of the program in general. Councilor Selby stated he did not believe contingency funds should be used and noted if the event was postponed for 90 days it would fall into the upcoming fiscal year. Mayor Mook stated she believed the program was a desire of this Council and the Council's contingency fund was meant to be used for just these types of unforeseen expenses. Dr. Isom reminded Council of the history on how the program evolved and the service provided and the popularity of the program; it was both a Council goal and desire of the public. He stated the program has been evaluated and improved on with collaboration from partners Parks & Sons, and transparency of the true cost is necessary for consideration. Councilor Selby stated he is in favor of the program but believed the funds should not come from Council contingency; he inquired if the transfer could not be taken from the fund mentioned in the previous Council item and was informed by Finance Director Nilles that Water Fund money could not be used on a sanitation expense. He advised Council that the Contingency fund started with \$200,000 and if this transfer is approved there will be \$74,000 remaining for the last three months of this current fiscal year.

Councilor Shapera commented that Parks & Sons has a method to take care of larger items and perhaps the City should encourage and assist with advertising this availability by informing residents, possibly through water bill inserts. Councilor Delgado stated he believed public money should not be used to dispose of other peoples' trash because he takes his own trash to the dump but believes the program is on the right track and Code Enforcement should be utilized more.

Vice Mayor Ramirez commented he believes this program is, in fact, is a proper use of Council Contingency funds in order to keep the City clean and continue building on the program's popularity and accomplishments. Councilor Palladino agreed with Vice Mayor Ramirez stating the program has been working well and he believes the program improvements have only enhanced the program overall; he does not want to see the program move in a backward direction. Councilor Jones commented Public Works just revamped the whole program to work with Parks & Sons and involves Code Enforcement Officers. He believes the costs are under control, the program is needed, and it is working well; and there are residents who cannot afford to pay for bulk trash removal. Councilor Selby reiterated he does not want to eliminate the program he is only concerned about where the funds come from. Councilor Shapera also reiterated Parks & Sons has a service available for disposing of large items and believes they should advertise more and the City should help them educate the public. Mayor Mook stated she would like to have Parks & Sons track and report back how much trash and money is spent by individuals to remove bulk trash through them and the City help educate citizens regarding services available to remove bulk trash. Dr. Isom stated because of the City's contractual partnership, the City can assist with advertising this service.

On a related item, Councilor Delgado, Mayor Mook and Vice Mayor Ramirez all thanked and complimented former public works Director Larry Dobrosky and acting public works director Nick Russo for their quick response to Council phone calls regarding trash pickup. They all appreciate the cooperation and efficiency exhibited by the public works department.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to authorize the City Manager to transfer budget and funds in an amount not to exceed \$28,500 from Council Contingency into the Sanitation Fund to support the spring 206 Bulk Trash Program; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

VI. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The City Council may not act upon any matter in the City Manager's summary but may have general comment or questions. Items to be discussed will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Easter Event

Public Relations Manager Amber Wakeman invited everyone to the Easter Eggstravaganza to be held on Saturday, March 19th from 9 am to 1 pm at Gentry Park on El Mirage Road. She advised there will be egg hunts for all ages, FREE photos with Hoppy the Easter Bunny, arts and crafts, a petting zoo, carnival rides, music, and food; every half hour there will be Easter Egg Hunts beginning at 9:45 for kids of various age groups. She thanked sponsors Walmart, Parks & Sons, Hickman's, Coco's Towing and APS. Mayor Mook pointed out that this is one of the most popular events for residents.

2. Community Uplift Program (CUP)

Dr. Isom reported that CUP had a spring cleanup on Saturday, March 5th with forty volunteers from Dysart High School, Valley Vista High School and Sunset View Baptist Church who cleaned yards, trimmed trees and shrubs, removed dead vegetation, and painted house trim on 14 properties. He thanked local businesses, Walmart, Walgreen's and Subway who donated paint, supplied bottled water and sandwiches for the volunteers; their continuing support is greatly appreciated.

3. New Employees

Acting Public Works Director Nick Russo introduced new employee Michael Day who comes from the City of Phoenix Water Department with 27 years of water experience. He lives in El Mirage and now works here and is proud to do both. Mr. Day stated he has worked for a big city but really likes working for a smaller town. He thought it would be a tough transition but he has been warmly welcomed and treated very well.

Development and Community Services Director/City Engineer Jorge Gastelum introduced Jose Denny who is the City's new Engineering Inspector. He retired from the Army in September 2001 and previously worked for the City of Buckeye and MCDOT, bringing 10 years of experience. Mr. Denny reported he has been a project manager, building inspector, land developer, and a U.S. Army Ranger. He thanked Council and staff for the opportunity.

Police Chief Terry McDonald reported the Spaghetti Dinner for Explorers was a great event and acknowledged the Fire Department's participation. The event raised \$1,300 and Chief thanked everyone for the support of the Police Explorers.

VII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS and COUNCIL SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The Mayor and City Council may not discuss or act upon any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Mayor Mook reported Councilor Selby has been named one of only five nominees from 35 states to be considered for the national 2016 F. Tom Roberts Memorial Award on the Operation Lifesaver Program for Rail Safety Education. He is very active in the program and frequently provides instruction presentations to various groups regarding railroad safety. Councilor Selby exemplifies the organizations' dedication to preventing tragedies and saving lives at railroad crossings and along railroad rights-of-way. The Council congratulates Council Selby on his nomination and wishes him success in the nomination award. The awardee will be determined and announced later this year.

Councilor Selby reported the Community Uplift Program (CUP) Program has grown to 14 properties with 40 volunteers. This program has grown considerably since its inception and become quite successful; he is proud to be associated with this worthwhile program.

Councilor Shapera stated he enjoyed attending the Explorers' fundraising dinner at the Police Station.

Councilor Delgado stated, he too, enjoyed attending the Explorers' dinner. He is very proud of the kids and is confident they are going to be good citizens.

Vice Mayor Ramirez asked when pavement on some of the El Mirage Road construction could be expected and City Engineer Mr. Gastelum responded within the next few months after Southwest Gas, COX, Qwest and APS finish the underground work. He also stated the sidewalk and pavement on Varney Road is expected soon as well.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

ATTEST:


Sharon Antes
Sharon Antes, City Clerk

Lana Mook
Lana Mook, Mayor

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 and a quorum was present.

Sharon Antes
Sharon Antes, City Clerk